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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/974,852	10/12/2001	Thomas P. Brady	3175-51CIP	8182

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AGFA CORPORATION
LAW & PATENT DEPARTMENT
200 BALLARDVALE STREET
WILMINGTON, MA 01887

EXAMINER

HUNTSINGER, PETER K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/974,852

Applicant(s)

BRADY, THOMAS P.

Examiner

Peter K. Huntsinger

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the limitation of claim 2: the first and second image maker are the same image maker, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The term "same image maker" in claim 2 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "same image maker" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. It is unclear whether the applicant intended the same image maker to designate utilizing one device or utilizing two identical devices. The specification does not define the meaning of this claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-4, 10, 13-15, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi U.S. Patent 6,816,271.

Referring to claim 1, Takahashi discloses a networked imaging system, comprising: a first communications network (system bus 214, of Fig. 3, printer 200, printer server 250, file server 500 of Fig. 1); a second communications network, different than the first communications network (printer 300, printer server 350, file server 500 of

Fig. 1); a first storage device interconnected to the first network (RAM 212 of Fig. 3 of printer 200, col. 3, lines 45-50); a second storage device interconnected to the second network (RAM 212 of Fig. 3 of printer 300, col. 3, lines 45-50); a first image processor interconnected to the first network, and configured to generate first image data representing a first image and to write the first image data to the first storage device (CPU 211 of Fig. 3 of printer 200, col. 3, lines 26-31); a second image processor interconnected to the second network, and configured to generate second image data representing a second image (CPU 211 of Fig. 3 of printer 300, col. 3, lines 26-31); a first print driver interconnected to the first and the second networks (col. 4, lines 17-22), and configured to write the second image data to the second storage device and to generate first drive instructions corresponding to the written first image data (S205 of Fig. 6 of printer 200, col. 6, lines 47-50). Takahashi discloses multiple printers of the same type (col. 3, lines 13-15). Utilizing multiple printers of the same model would require identical print drivers, thus the print driver present within printer 200 on the first network would be identical to the print driver present within printer 300 on the second network. It is further known to those of ordinary skill in the art that printers support multiple printer languages. Takahashi discloses a second print driver interconnected to the second network, and configured to generate second drive instructions corresponding to the written second image data (S205 of Fig. 6 of printer 300, col. 6, lines 47-50). Takahashi further discloses utilizing multiple print drivers in client 100 (col. 2, lines 47-53) to support the network printers depending on the job to be created and printed if the current job is different from the previous. Thus it is inherent in Takahashi

that a second print driver is interconnected to the second network 300 and configured to generate second drive instructions corresponding to the second image data when it is different from said first data. This is true because of the multiple print drivers supported by client 100 which serve said first and second communication networks. A different printer would require a first and a second print driver. Takahashi discloses a first image maker configured to generate a representation of the first image in accordance with the first drive instructions (printer 200 of Fig. 1); and a second image maker configured to generate a representation of the second image in accordance with the second drive instructions (printer 200 of Fig. 1).

Referring to claim 2, Takahashi discloses the first and the second image maker are the same image maker (col. 3, lines 12-14).

Referring to claim 3, Takahashi discloses the first image maker is a first imagesetter (Printer 200 of Fig. 1); and the second image maker is a second imagesetter (Printer 300 of Fig. 1), different than the first imagesetter (col. 3, lines 15-20).

Referring to claim 4, Takahashi discloses the first print driver is further configured to read the first image data from the first storage device via the first communications network and to write the second image data to the second storage device via the second communications network (S205 of Fig. 6 of printer 300, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Referring to claims 10 and 21, Takahashi discloses the written second image data is in a first format; the first print driver is further configured to reformat the written second image data from the first format to a second format (S205 of Fig. 6 of printer

300, col. 6, lines 47-50); and the second print driver is further configured to process the reformatted second image data to generate the second drive instructions (col. 3, lines 26-31). It is inherent that the printers of Takahashi include print drivers stored within the printers. Print drivers are needed at the printer for communication between the printer and computer.

Referring to claim 13, Takahashi discloses a method for generating a representation of an image, comprising: writing first image data, representing a first image, to a first storage device (RAM 212 of Fig. 3 of printer 200, col. 3, lines 45-50) via a first communications network (system bus 214, of Fig. 3, printer 200, printer server 250, file server 500 of Fig. 1); retrieving the written first image data from the first storage device via the first communications network; generating first instructions corresponding to the retrieved first image data (S205 of Fig. 6 of printer 200, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Takahashi discloses multiple printers of the same type (col. 3, lines 13-15). Utilizing multiple printers of the same model would require identical print drivers, thus the print driver present within printer 200 on the first network would be identical to the print driver present within printer 300 on the second network. It is further known to those of ordinary skill in the art that printers support multiple printer languages. Takahashi discloses writing second image data, representing a second image, to a second storage device (RAM 212 of Fig. 3 of printer 300, col. 3, lines 45-50); retrieving the written second image data from the second storage device; transmitting the retrieved second image data via a second communications network (printer 300, printer server 350, file server 500 of Fig. 1); generating second instructions corresponding to the transmitted

second image data (S205 of Fig. 6 of printer 300, col. 6, lines 47-50). Takahashi further discloses utilizing multiple print drivers in client 100 (col. 2, lines 47-53) to support the network printers depending on the job to be created and printed if the current job is different from the previous. Thus it is inherent in Takahashi that a second print driver is interconnected to the second network 300 and configured to generate second drive instructions corresponding to the second image data when it is different from said first data. This is true because of the multiple print drivers supported by client 100 which serve said first and second communication networks. A different printer would require a first and a second print driver. Takahashi discloses generating a representation of the first image in accordance with the first instructions (CPU 211 of Fig. 3 of printer 200, col. 3, lines 26-31); and If generating a representation of the second image in accordance with the second instructions (CPU 211 of Fig. 3 of printer 300, col. 3, lines 26-31).

Referring to claim 14, Takahashi discloses transmitting the first instructions via the second network; and transmitting the second instructions via the second network (S205 of Fig. 6 of printer 300, col. 6, lines 47-50); wherein the representation of the first image and the representation of the second image are generated in accordance with the transmitted first instructions and the transmitted second instructions by a single image maker (printer 200 of Fig. 1).

Referring to claim 15, Takahashi discloses the second image data is written to the second storage device via the second communications network (col. 3, lines 45-50).

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 5 and 16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi U.S. Patent 6,816,271.

Referring to claims 5 and 16, Takahashi discloses the first image processor (CPU 211 of Fig. 3 of printer 200, col. 3, lines 26-31) is further configured to transmit, to the first print driver (col. 4, lines 17-22) via the second communications network (network 600 of Fig. 1). Network 600 connects the file server 500 and the print server 350 of the second network. Takahashi does not disclose expressly transmitting a message confirming print data has been received. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious in the art for a printer to send confirmation that the print data has been successfully transmitted to and stored within the printer. Printers on networks contain error checking protocol to verify commands are received correctly and not distorted due to noise.

7. Claims 6 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi U.S. Patent 6,816,271.

Referring to claims 6 and 17, Takahashi discloses a first communications network includes a respective dedicated link, having a first bandwidth, between the first

image processor and the first storage device, and between the first print driver and the first storage device (system bus 214 of Fig. 3, col. 3, lines 25-31). The first network of Takahashi includes the network 600, which requires a large bandwidth to transfer data from the computer to the file server. It would be obvious that the first network have a greater bandwidth than the second network. The bandwidth limitations would be determined based on the desired specifications of each printer. Further, a high resolution color printer would require a greater amount of data transferred to the printer than a low resolution black and white printer and it would be obvious to provide a greater bandwidth for the high resolution printer to reduce the greater amount of time needed for printing. Therefore, it would be obvious for the first network to have a greater bandwidth than the second network.

8. Claims 7 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi U.S. Patent 6,816,271 as applied to claims 1 and 13 above, and further in view of Okada et al. U.S. Patent 6,611,347 and Grohs et al. Publication US 2001/0043753.

Takahashi discloses an image processor and a print driver but does not disclose expressly the print processor compressing image data or the print driver capable of compressing and decompressing image data. Okada et al. disclose a processor capable of compressing image data (col. 16, lines 54-58). Takahashi and Okada et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of printing systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to

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compress image data with a print processor. The motivation for doing so would have been to reduce the significant costs that are associated with increased storage capacity requirements and the computing resources and time required to transmit the data (page 1, paragraph 6 of Grohs et al.). Grohs et al. disclose a print driver capable of compressing image data (page 4, paragraph 36). Takahashi and Grohs et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of printing systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to compress image data with a print driver. The motivation for doing so would have been to reduce the significant costs that are associated with increased storage capacity requirements and the computing resources and time required to transmit the data (page 1, paragraph 6 of Grohs et al.). It would be obvious for a print driver to uncompress data. A printer that receives data in compressed format must uncompress data before it is processed and printed. Therefore, it would be obvious to combine Okada et al. and Grohs et al. with Takahashi to obtain the invention as specified in claims 7 and 18.

9. Claims 8, 9, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi U.S. Patent 6,816,271 as applied to claim 1 and 13 above, and further in view of Grohs et al. Publication US 2001/0043753.

Referring to claims 8 and 19, Takahashi discloses the second image processor is further configured to generate the second image data in a first format (col. 4, lines 34-37). Takahashi does not disclose expressly a print driver compressing image data. Grohs et al. disclose a print driver is further configured to reformat the second image

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data from the first format to a second format and to compress reformatted second image data (page 4, paragraph 36). Takahashi and Grohs et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of printing systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to compress image data with a print driver. The motivation for doing so would have been to reduce the significant costs that are associated with increased storage capacity requirements and the computing resources and time required to transmit the data (page 1, paragraph 6 of Grohs et al.). Therefore, it would be obvious to combine Grohs et al. with Takahashi to obtain the invention as specified in claims 8 and 19.

Referring to claims 9 and 20, Takahashi discloses a print driver but does not disclose expressly a print driver that compresses image data. Grohs et al. disclose a print driver is further configured to compress the second image data (page 4, paragraph 36). Takahashi and Grohs et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of printing systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to compress image data with a print driver. The motivation for doing so would have been to reduce the significant costs that are associated with increased storage capacity requirements and the computing resources and time required to transmit the data (page 1, paragraph 6 of Grohs et al.). Therefore, it would be obvious to combine Grohs et al. with Takahashi to obtain the invention as specified in claims 9 and 20.

10. Claims 11 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi U.S. Patent 6,816,271 as applied to claims 1 and 13 above, and further in view of Okada et al. U.S. Patent 6,611,347 and Lupien, Jr. et al. U.S. Patent 6,738,158.

Takahashi disclose an image processor and a print driver but does not disclose expressly an image processor that compresses data. Okada et al. disclose a processor capable of compressing image data (col. 16, lines 54-58). Takahashi and Okada et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of printing systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to compress image data with a print processor. The motivation for doing so would have been to reduce the significant costs that are associated with increased storage capacity requirements and the computing resources and time required to transmit the data. Lupien, Jr. et al. disclose converting a first sequence of characters representing the first image into a second sequence of characters, including a predefined compression code for one of white image data and black image data, in order to generate the first image data (Step 318 of Fig. 3, col. 6, lines 15-23). Takahashi and Lupien, Jr. et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of printing systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to determining the compressing method based on whether image data is in black and white or color. The motivation for doing so would have been to increase the compression capacity for an image based on whether it is black and white or color data. It would be obvious for a print driver to uncompress data. A printer that receives data in

compressed format must uncompress data before it is processed and printed.

Therefore, it would be obvious to combine Okada et al. and Lupien, Jr. et al. with Takahashi to obtain the invention as specified in claims 11 and 22.

11. Claims 12 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi U.S. Patent 6,816,271, Okada et al. U.S. Patent 6,611,347, and Lupien, Jr. et al. U.S. Patent 6,738,158. as applied to claims 11 and 22 above, and further in view of applicant's prior art.

Lupien, Jr. et al. disclose converting the first sequence of characters by reading a first character in the first sequence of characters, to determine if the read first character represents the one of the white and the black image data (Step 318 of Fig. 3, col. 6, lines 15-23). Lupien, Jr. et al. do not disclose expressly determining if the subsequent character matches the previous character. The applicant's prior art discloses reading one or more characters occurring immediately subsequent to the first character in the first sequence of characters, to determine if the read one or more characters match the read first character, and, if so, to generate the second sequence of characters to represent the matching one or more characters (pages 8-9, lines 11-31, 1-8). It would have been obvious to utilize the compression method as disclosed by the applicant's prior art within the system of Lupien, Jr. et al. Further, the compression method is a generic type of compression that is interchangeable with the compression method disclosed by Lupien, Jr. et al. The motivation for doing so would have been to benefit from the greater compression capacity.

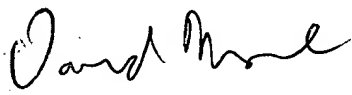
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter K. Huntsinger whose telephone number is (571)272-7435. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PKH


DAVID MOORE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600